

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00904 151747Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /067 W
-----122116 160432Z /66
R 151449Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0306
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 00904

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PEPR, EI, UK
SUBJECT: MASON-O'KENNEDY TALKS PROBABLE

REF: (A) DUBLIN 855, (B) DUBLIN 851

1. IN THE WAKE OF INCREASED TENSION BETWEEN DUBLIN AND LONDON OVER SECURITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND (REFTELS), THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN DELIVERED A REQUEST ON MARCH 14 FOR A MEETING BETWEEN NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY ROY MASON AND IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY. IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE REQUEST, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED "CAREFULLY." ACCORDING TO POLITICAL REPORTERS, THE GOI MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT HAD TWO CONDITIONS: ONE WAS THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DUBLIN NOT BELFAST; THE SECOND WAS THAT THE AGENDA INCLUDE ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS IN GENERAL RATHER THAN THE MORE LIMITED CROSS-BORDER SECURITY PROBLEM THAT WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE RECENT MASON-LYNCH EXCHANGES. APPARENTLY, MASON HAD ASKED THAT THE MEETING INCLUDE THE CHIEF CONSTABUL OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY AND THE GOI'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE. THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THESE TWO AS PARTICIPANTS.

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00904 151747Z

2. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOI WAS COOL ON THE DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID O'KENNEDY'S SCHEDULE IS VERY TIGHT FOR THE NEXT WEEKS), IT IS LOGICAL TO ASSUME THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE PRIME MINISTERS LYNCH AND CALLAGHAN MEET AT THE EC PRIME MINISTERS' MEETING IN EARLY APRIL.
SHANNON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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